



**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes  
July 14, 2016**

**Members Present:** Gary Feffer, Charles Castle, Ron Ilgen, Scot Hume, Jason Rupinski, Hank Scarangella, Gary Bostrom

**Members Absent:** Mina Liebert, Carol Beckman

**Alternates Present:** Charlie Dunn

**Alternates Absent:** N/A

**Staff Present:** Karen Palus, Chris Lieber, Kurt Schroeder, Kim King, Christi Mehew

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**Called to Order:** Gary Feffer brought the meeting to order at 7:34 a.m.

Gary Feffer, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Vice Chair, welcomed the new Parks Board member, Gary Bostrom and Parks Board alternate member, Charlie Dunn.

**Citizen Discussion**

**Pat Kelly** (Former City Attorney) Jim Colvin served for twenty seven years in the City Attorney's office and fourteen years as the City Attorney. Pat Kelly was chosen to be his successor. Jim Colvin has integrity, legal competence and is passionate about trails and open spaces. He served on the Parks Board from 1981–1985. She recommends the next new park be named after Jim Colvin for his love of the City and Parks.

**Allen Ziegler** (Retired from the City Attorney's office) Jim Colvin was very appreciative of the parks in Colorado Springs and was an avid hiker. He was very involved and successful in the southwest annexation of Monument Valley Park in 1978. He is in support of naming a park after Jim Colvin.

**Wynetta Massey** (City Attorney) Jim Colvin was instrumental in getting the TOPS ordinance (97-96) passed in 1997. Jim was very involved in making sure that this tax reflected the voters will when written into the city code. Please consider naming a park after Jim Colvin.

**Jim Coonradt** (Cottonwood Disc Golf Club) He is concerned about the length of time it has taken to complete the Cottonwood Disc Golf Course. Half of the holes are complete; however, there is still a lot of work to be done and he offered to assist in the project. Karen Palus stated he should talk to David Deitemeyer who is the project manager.

**Jeff Norton** (Pikes Peak Pickleball Association President) A new membership meeting was recently held and Jeff introduced all their new officers. Monument Valley Park Pickleball courts are under construction and the Parks Board are invited to the dedication. Jeff Norton along

with Marti Gasser (Pikes Peak Pickleball Association Vice President) presented a check in the amount of \$3,000 towards the Monument Valley Pickleball courts.

Mickey Simpson (Pikes Peak Ascent and Marathon) She thanked the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and the Parks Department Staff for their support of the Pikes Peak Ascent and Marathon. The asset organizers are exploring an idea for next year's event that involves renting Garden of the Gods Park for a 10 mile run and Race Expo prior to the Ascent Marathon which would give runners the opportunity to donate towards the Park. She presented two posters of the Ascent and Marathon to Karen Palus, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director.

Jack Galvan (Pikes Peak - America's Mountain Manager) Distributed the Pikes Peak - America's Mountain picture book to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board members. The book will be sold to citizens as a fundraiser for the Pikes Peak Summit House project.

Susan Davies (Trails and Open Space Coalition) "Keep Colorado Springs Beautiful" is working with groups to help keep the Greenway clean. They are continuing their communication with Walmart to take care of carts on the Greenway. Parts of the Greenway are not adopted yet which poses some challenges. Please have conversations with City Council members and the community to encourage a group effort. Karen Palus stated this is a very challenging problem due to approximately 65 campsites existing in the area. Until there is more housing for the homeless this issue will continue. A Community Development Block Grant is being considered to help with maintenance concerns.

Allison Plute – Creek Week is a clean-up program which occurs every Fall and involves many city partners. Creek Week is September 24th – October 2nd.

### **Approval of Minutes** – June 9, 2016

The June 9, 2016 minutes will be revised to reflect that Charles Castle referred to Hank Scarangella and Scot Hume to work on the changes in regards to the TOPS Policy and Procedure Manual. The minutes were approved with the above revisions.

1st – Charles Castle, 2nd – Scot Hume, Approved, Unanimous

### **Action Items**

#### **1. TOPS Policy and Procedure Manual Revisions** (Presented by Chris Lieber, Park Development Manager)

Chris Lieber stated the changes that have occurred since the last meeting include:

- The Acquisition Outreach language has been revised (Part 4, B.2) to state: "The regular and proactive contact of landowners is a cornerstone of the TOPS Program. The Parks and Recreation staff or their representatives shall notify landowners of priority parcels deemed valuable to the community to be preserved as open space and inform owners of land conservation options."
- The Application for Funding form has a section added for the application date.

Motion – to approve the proposed TOPS Policies and Procedures Manual update and revisions.

1st – Scot Hume, 2nd – Charles Castle, Approved, Unanimous

## **2. Transportation Alternative Grant Application: Gold Hills Trail Construction Phase 1**

(Presented by Tilah Larson, Parks Grant Administrator)

[Link to Power Point presentation](#)

- The trail will include: A underpass just before 21<sup>st</sup> Street where Fountain Creek crosses under Highway 24; additional segments of trail following Fountain Creek at the northeast and southeast corners of Highway 24 and 21st Street and an underpass under 21st Street that links to the Midland Trail trailhead.
- Gold Hill Mesa Development is supportive of this trail connection.
- The application is for a \$500,000 grant with a match of \$280,000 from the TOPS Trails Category.

Motion – Approve the submittal of the grant application and letter of support.

1<sup>st</sup> - Ron Ilgen, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Charles Castle, Approved, Unanimous

### **Presentations**

**3. Utilities Integrated Water Resources Planning (IWRP) Effort** (Presented by Kevin Lusk, City of Colorado Springs Engineer Principal)

[Link to Power Point presentation](#)

The Power Point presentation included: Colorado Springs complex water system description; water use; IWRP purpose; IWRP goal; what they want to find out; risks and vulnerabilities; risk prioritization; risk/opportunity – regionalization; risks becoming reality; IWRP options and how do they mitigate against risks and the balance between a more or less reserve storage; types of options to reduce risk; option evaluation criteria and scoring; potential future portfolios and the public process and outreach efforts.

- An Integrated Water Resource Plan Fact Sheet was distributed to Board members.
- Colorado Springs is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest city in Colorado and it is not near a water source.
- The City is looking at how much water is needed for the build out in the next 50 years.
- The goal is to sustainably address water supply and demand in our community and 100 risks have been identified as well as 10,000 future climate sequences.
- The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is a part of this project due to the need to develop ways of increasing water efficiency along with exploring other opportunities to water Parks.
- 59% of funding that the Parks Department receives from the General Fund Operations Budget goes towards watering Parks.
- Charles Castle requested the Power Point presentation to be emailed to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board members.
- The public is focused on water quality and regionalization.
- Additional reservoirs for water storage could create more recreational opportunities in the future.
- The Parks Department has been in communication with various industries in regards to future recreational opportunities, e.g. rafting, fishing, and watercraft.

- Bill Koerner (TOSC) expressed concern regarding how to keep our streams alive since many trails are along streams. Kevin Lusk stated they want to maintain minimum flow requirements.
- Eric Becker, Parks Water Conservation Specialist, inquired how the plan integrates with the statewide plan from the Governor of Colorado, and how does this plan guide and help the City's plan. Kevin Lusk responded that the statewide plan is a guide; however, there is no enforcement and that the City's plan is very consistent with what's in the state plan.
- Allison Plute, Colorado Springs Utilities Project Manager, can assist with tours of the City's water facilities.

#### **4. Planning and Community Initiatives Department Proposed Ordinance Revisions to Chapter 7-Appeals** (Presented by Renee Congdon, City of Colorado Springs Senior Attorney and Carl Schueler, Comprehensive Planning Manager)

##### [Link to Power Point presentation](#)

The Power Point presentation included: background; legal process; committee, meeting and hearing process; relationship with the Parks Department and Parks Board; what has changed/not changed on the land use side; administrative vs. hearing-based decisions; parties that may appeal; hearing-based appellants; only final decisions can be appealed; changing from 10 to (12 or 14) days; comments and concerns regarding number of days to appeal; recent changes and topics under discussion.

- The Legal Department is currently going through every chapter of the city code and identifying areas where it can be improved.
- The current code for the Parks Department is in Chapter 4; however, it refers back to Chapter 7 and some inconsistencies have been discovered.
- The appeals process in the Parks Master Plan is an area that needs to be changed.
- The proposed changes include: parties that may appeal defined – but still broad; the ability to appeal non-final decisions and the time to file will be increased to 10 to 12 days.
- Recommendations cannot be appealed; however, actual decisions about the Parks Master Plan can be appealed and will be handled by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.
- The Parks Department will create the review criteria and identify who can make appeals.
- Chapter 4 has been reviewed by Jackie Hilaire, Mina Liebert and Gary Feffer and specific changes to the Board By-Laws will be a part of this process.
- The goal is to have the appeals section draft completed and reviewed by the Code Scrub Park Board member representative, Hank Scarangella, as well as Chapter 4 Parks Board By-Laws reviewed and completed, and go forward with both items for approval at the same time.

#### **Ceremonial Items**

- **Hillside Solar Panels** (Joan Clemons) Jill Gaebler was presented with a t-shirt and framed plaque for her assistance in this project.

- **Pikes Peak Hospice and Palliative Care** –A picture and plaque were presented to Joan Selman and Martha Barton for their assistance and generosity on the Pikes Peak Hospice and Palliative Care Meditation Garden at Nancy Lewis Park.

#### **5. Inspire Grant** (Presented by Tilah Larson, Parks Grant Administrator)

[Link to Power Point presentation](#)

The Power Point presentation included: People, places, programs, pathways; a timeline; a map of the target area which includes Memorial Park, Hillside Community Center, Hunt Elementary, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Charter School and Life Skills Center High School; the planning process and next steps.

- GOCO Inspire Initiative is a five year strategy for youth to enjoy outdoor areas.
- Collaboration is occurring with Richard Shaw, Envision Shooks Run consultant, due to the geographical areas that overlap.
- \$75,000 will be used to develop the plan.
- July 2017 the Parks Department will be submitting an application for up to \$5,000,000 for implementation.

#### **6. Water Footprint- City of Colorado Springs Parks Comprehensive Irrigation Water Management Strategy** (Presented by Eric Becker, City of Colorado Springs Water Conservation Specialist and Kurt Schroeder, Park Operations and Development Manager)

[Link to Power Point presentation](#)

The Power Point presentation included: comprehensive irrigation water management (leadership buy-in/budget, new park design, ongoing system maintenance and retrofits, turf maintenance program, staff development, individual accountability, effective use of new technology, alternative potable water solutions, and water footprint reduction); Colorado water plan; water footprint reduction summary; joint property agreements; new technology update and new park design and development.

- Since 2010 the Parks Department has been working aggressively on changing how they work with water including the Park Solution team implementing reduced levels of irrigation.
- Discussion included: the high temperature of turf; weed control of grasses; opportunities for non-potable water use and the need for public awareness of grasses and the changes needed for residential properties.
- Charles Castle requested Kurt Schroeder provide him with the amount of dollars spent in 2015 vs. 2016 in gallons for water. In addition, he requested the Power Point presentation be sent to all Board members.

#### **7. University Village/Monument Valley Park Utility Corridors** (Presented by Chris Lieber, Parks Development Manager)

[Link to Power Point Presentation](#)

### University Village Project

- The Parks and Recreation Department has received a request from Colorado Springs Utilities for a public utility corridor across the Pikes Peak Greenway Trail at North Nevada Avenue and University Village. The proposed public utility corridor is necessary for the construction of underground utilities to serve and benefit the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs (UCCS) and other developments along the corridor. If approved by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Park staff will pursue an Executive Agreement with Colorado Springs Utilities for use of this corridor.
- Colorado Springs Utilities desires access to this area for a sanitary sewer.
- Colorado Springs Utilities will be responsible for all costs associated with the agreement and construction.
- A presentation by the Utilities Department will be given at the August Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting.

### Monument Valley Park Project

- A public main is being proposed in Monument Valley Park along the Pikes Peak Greenway Trail at 16 Valley Place. The main will extend from the existing sanitary sewer so that the two adjacent apartment buildings would connect and continue to one public main.

### Staff Reports

#### **8. 2C and 2D Update** (Presented by Chris Lieber, Parks Development Manager)

##### 2D

- Completed Projects - Pikes Peak Greenway Trail from Fillmore to Rock Island/Mark Dabbling to I-25, Skyline Trail from Research Boulevard to Woodmen Road.
- Construction will begin soon on the Palmer Mesa Trail near Holmes Junior High School and the Sand Creek Trail from Airport Road to Hancock Expressway.
- Engineering drawings are underway for improving the underpass underneath the railroad for the Sinton Trail from Mark Dabbling Road to Ellston Street. Construction should begin this Fall.
- Several issues are being addressed regarding ADA improvements prior to construction for the Homestead Trail from North Carefree to South Carefree and the Rock Island Trail from Circle Drive to Academy Boulevard.

##### 2C

- 27 miles have been paved throughout the City.
- 4.9 miles of paving have been completed in Palmer Park.
- 6.4 miles of paving have been completed in North Cheyenne Canon Park.
- 8.4 miles of paving should be completed by July 27<sup>th</sup> in Garden of the Gods Park.

### Board Business

#### Karen Palus

- The Parks Department has been working with the Trust for Public Land (TPL) who has recently completed a Conservation Feasibility Finance Report. TPL will be starting robo calls with a short quick poll of information. November will start the full polling project.
- Fiddles, Vittles and Vino will be held at Rockledge Ranch on July 31 from 3:00 – 8:30 p.m.

- The Pikes Peak Highway recently had 6000+ visitor day.
- July is Parks and Recreation Month. Selfies will be taken of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board with the capes provided as a part of our #SuperSelfieCOS Challenge.
- The Olympic Celebration Downtown will be held on August 5<sup>th</sup>.

## **9. Committee Reports/General Comments**

Ron Ilgen – Commented that events are being held on High Drive and questioned if this is allowed. An event participant was hit by a car coming off High Drive near Gold Camp Road.

### Hank Scarangella

- As the Parks Board liaison to the Camp Creek mitigation project a recent development occurred. A Friend of Garden of the Gods Board member who has a geology background has expressed concerns about the plan specifically where the seventeen acre retention basin has been located in the north part of the Park. Chris Lieber and Hank will be meeting with Mike Chavez, the City's Project Manager. The two issues of concern are: 1) Will water flow where it's supposed to flow; 2) The benefit from the retention basin are the homeowners and businesses of Pleasant Valley. He questioned why this should be done if it doesn't benefit the Park, but rather benefits the people outside the Park.
- An email invitation was sent to Park Board members from Friends of Garden of the Gods for July 18<sup>th</sup> or July 26<sup>th</sup> to include a tour of the Visitors Center, watch an educational movie, learn more about the Foundation and get a behind the scenes look at the Park. If you have a preferred date, please let Hank know.

Scot Hume – N/A

Gary Feffer – N/A

### Charles Castle

- Inquired about Meadows Park Community Center and when the seal coating on the parking lot will be occurring. Kurt Schroeder anticipates September.
- Kim King stated the City Auditorium restrooms are open, functional and beautiful. The ceiling tile is on back order; however, the project should be done by the end of the month and a dedication will be planned.
- The Shooks Run public process is going smoothly and being received well. The meeting this month is cancelled.
- The appointment of the TOPS liaison position has not been approved by City Council. The Parks Department will inform him when he is officially appointed.

Gary Bostrom – Commented about enjoying being a part of his first Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting. The Popcycle Bridge project is beautiful.

[Link to handouts distributed during meeting](#)

## **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn at 12:23 p.m. and to go into Executive Session. Approved, Unanimous.